

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for improving the legibility of an application written for a lower pixel density monitor and displayed on a higher pixel density monitor, wherein the screen resolution of the higher pixel density monitor is set to a native resolution, the method
5 comprising the steps of:

waiting for a first input signal from a user; and

programmatically changing the screen resolution in one atomic step from the native resolution to a lower resolution in response to the first input signal;

wherein the native resolution is at least 33% greater in pixel density than the
10 lower resolution.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

waiting for a second input signal from a user; and

programmatically changing the screen resolution in one atomic step from the
15 lower resolution to the native resolution in response to the second input signal.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein waiting for a first input signal from a user comprises monitoring a keyboard input queue.

20 4. The method of claim 3, wherein monitoring a keyboard input queue comprises:

determining whether the keyboard input queue contains the first input signal; and

removing the first input signal from the keyboard input queue in response to the first input signal.

5 5. The method of claim 2, wherein waiting for a second input signal from a user comprises the step of monitoring a keyboard input queue.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein monitoring a keyboard input queue comprises:

10 determining whether the keyboard input queue contains the second input signal;
and

removing the first input signal from the keyboard input queue in response to the second input signal.

15 7. The method of claim 1, wherein waiting for a first input signal from a user comprises waiting for a hot key sequence.

8. The method of claim 2, wherein waiting for a second input signal from a user comprises waiting for a hot key sequence.

20 9. The method of claim 2, further comprising the steps of:
moving a foreground window to a screen origin in response to the first signal; and
saving original coordinates of the foreground window in response to the first signal.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:
moving the foreground window to the position specified by the original
coordinates in response to the second signal; and
discarding the original coordinates.

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11. The method of claim 2, further comprising the steps of:
moving a foreground window to a screen origin in response to the first signal;
saving original coordinates of the foreground window in response to the first
signal; and
10 storing a unique identifier of the foreground window.

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12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:
moving the foreground window identified by the unique identifier to the position
specified by the original coordinates in response to the second signal; and
15 discarding the original coordinates and the unique identifier.

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13. The method of claim 1, wherein programmatically changing the screen
resolution in one atomic step from the native resolution to a lower resolution in response
to the first input signal comprises:

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determining if the native resolution is a first resolution; and
if the native resolution is the first resolution, changing the screen resolution in one
atomic step from the native resolution to the lower resolution in response to the first input
signal.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
determine a first difference between the native resolution and the first resolution;
determine a second difference between the native resolution and the lower
resolution;

5 if the first difference is greater than the second difference, changing the screen
resolution in one atomic step from the native resolution to the first resolution; and
if the second difference is greater than the first different, changing the screen
resolution in one atomic step from the native resolution to the lower resolution.

10 15. The method of claim 2, wherein programmatically changing the screen
resolution in one atomic step from the lower resolution to the native resolution in
response to the second input signal comprises:

determining if the lower resolution is a second resolution; and
if the lower resolution is the second resolution, changing the screen resolution in
15 one atomic step from the lower resolution to the native resolution in response to the
second input signal.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
determining a first difference between the lower resolution and the second
20 resolution;
determine a second difference between the lower resolution and the native
resolution;

if the first difference is greater than the second difference, changing the screen resolution in one atomic step from the lower resolution to the second resolution; and

if the second difference is greater than the first difference, changing the screen resolution in one atomic step from the lower resolution to the native resolution.

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17. A system for improving the legibility of an application written for a lower pixel density monitor and displayed on a higher pixel density monitor, wherein the screen resolution of the higher pixel density monitor is set to a native resolution, comprising:

means for waiting for a first input signal from a user; and

10 means for programmatically changing the screen resolution in one atomic step from the native resolution to a lower resolution in response to the first input signal;

wherein the native resolution is at least 33% greater in pixel density than the lower resolution.

15 18. A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor to perform a method for improving the legibility of an application written for a lower pixel density monitor and displayed on a higher pixel density monitor, wherein the screen resolution of the higher pixel density monitor is set to a native resolution, the method comprising the steps of:

20 waiting for a first input signal from a user; and

programmatically changing the screen resolution in one atomic step from the native resolution to a lower resolution in response to the first input signal;

wherein the native resolution is at least 33% greater in pixel density than the lower resolution.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein programmatically changing the screen resolution in one atomic step from the native resolution to a lower resolution in response to the first input signal comprises programmatically changing the screen resolution without interleaving access by another process from the native resolution to a lower resolution in response to the first input signal.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein programmatically changing the screen resolution in one atomic step from the native resolution to a lower resolution in response to the first input signal comprises programmatically changing the screen resolution without further user intervention from the native resolution to a lower resolution in response to the first input signal.

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